

Southern Plains Drought Outlook Summary

Thursday, July 18th, 2013

Issued: 0900 CDT



National Weather Service
Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX



Prepared by: Jennifer McNatt
817-978-1100 x 147

Current Drought Situation

- Oklahoma** Extreme to exceptional drought confined to western quarter of state and panhandle.
- New Mexico** Minor improvements as summer monsoon rains began on schedule. 86% of the state in extreme to exceptional drought ... compared to 25% of the state at this time last year.
- Texas** Little overall change. Minor improvements in streamflow conditions in north-central/northwest TX due to recent rainfall.

U.S. Drought Monitor

July 16, 2013

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Oklahoma

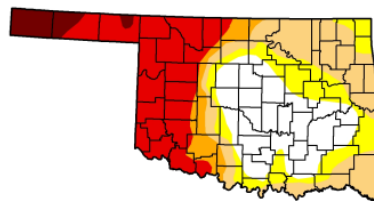
	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	24.92	75.08	59.05	36.18	30.29	4.32
Last Week (07/09/2013 map)	24.53	75.47	50.60	36.97	30.29	8.69
3 Months Ago (04/16/2013 map)	8.09	91.91	81.91	57.61	33.47	7.62
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	94.89	37.06
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.98	95.33	42.09
One Year Ago (07/10/2012 map)	0.28	99.72	99.15	38.61	10.83	0.00

Intensity:

D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Drought - Extreme
D1 Drought - Moderate	D4 Drought - Exceptional
D2 Drought - Severe	

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, July 18, 2013
Richard Heim, National Climatic Data Center/NOAA

Current/Ongoing Drought Impacts

- New Mexico**: 3 of the 4 largest reservoirs at less than 15% of storage capacity. The largest, Elephant Butte, is at only 3% of capacity. Low water storage on the Rio Grande is beginning to impact water availability for small towns.
- Texas**: Even with recent rains, statewide reservoir capacity currently at 64%, which is 10 percentage points less than this time last year and is the lowest for this time of year since modern records began in 1990.
- Rio Grande**: Recent modest rains have resulted in very little change to the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Water levels remain at 25%–40% of storage capacity.
- Oklahoma**: Lake Altus in southwest Oklahoma at less than 20% of storage capacity.

For Southern Plains Drought Monitor go to:

<http://www.drought.gov/drought/regional-programs/southernplains/southern-plains-home>

U.S. Drought Monitor

July 16, 2013

Valid 7 a.m. EST

New Mexico

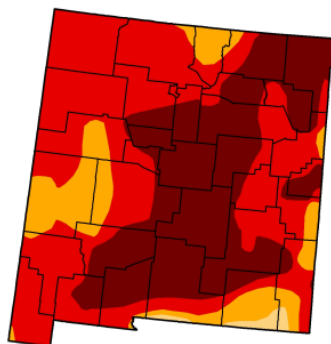
	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	98.92	86.07	37.98
Last Week (07/09/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	98.92	90.91	42.43
3 Months Ago (04/16/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	98.68	93.95	58.73	4.36
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	98.83	94.05	31.88	0.97
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	82.56	12.25	0.66
One Year Ago (07/10/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	99.79	79.76	25.98	0.00

Intensity:

D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Drought - Extreme
D1 Drought - Moderate	D4 Drought - Exceptional
D2 Drought - Severe	

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, July 18, 2013
Richard Heim, National Climatic Data Center/NOAA



U.S. Drought Monitor

July 16, 2013

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Texas

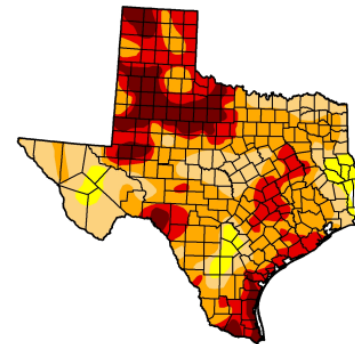
	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.30	99.70	94.38	70.99	33.43	12.07
Last Week (07/09/2013 map)	0.58	99.42	91.80	75.22	34.70	12.20
3 Months Ago (04/16/2013 map)	1.29	98.71	91.31	72.30	34.82	12.19
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	3.04	96.96	87.00	65.39	35.03	11.96
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	9.13	90.87	78.73	57.41	24.91	5.18
One Year Ago (07/10/2012 map)	4.49	95.51	77.23	39.41	9.09	0.00

Intensity:

D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Drought - Extreme
D1 Drought - Moderate	D4 Drought - Exceptional
D2 Drought - Severe	

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

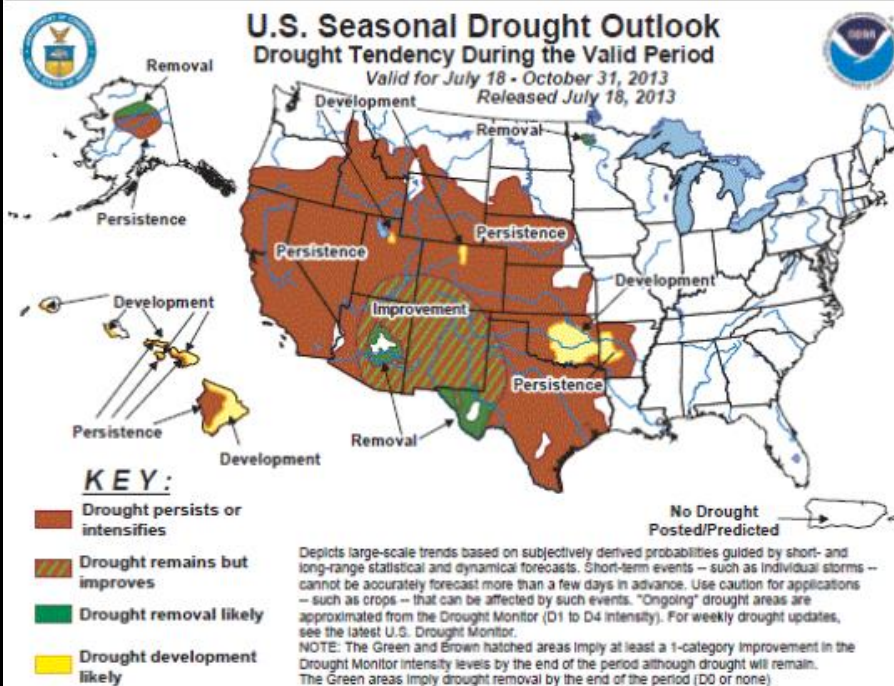
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, July 18, 2013
Richard Heim, National Climatic Data Center/NOAA

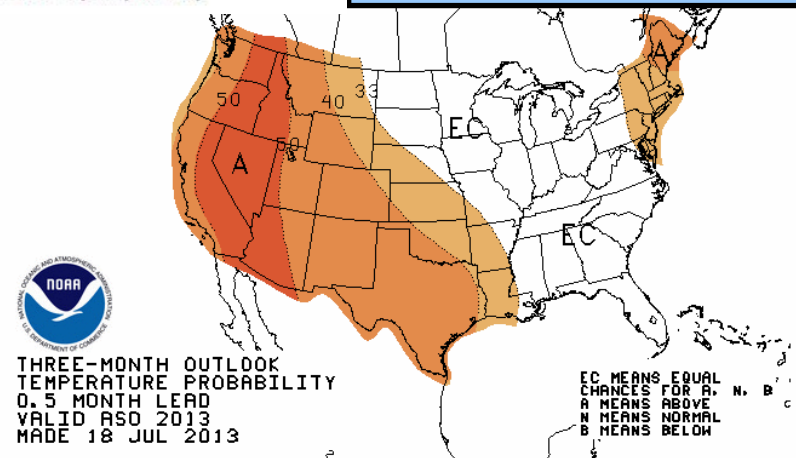
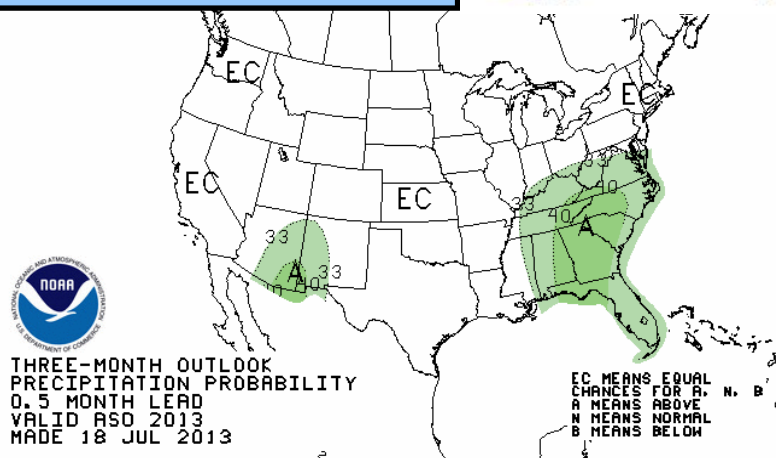
3-month Outlook Precipitation

- Increased chances for Above Normal Precipitation expected for the southwest quarter of NM.
- August is the wettest month of the year for NM, accounting for 20% of yearly precipitation total.
- Equal Chances of Above Normal or Below Normal Precipitation for the remainder of NM, TX and OK.



3-month Outlook Temperature

- Increased chances for Above Normal Temperatures for all of the southern plains.
- Highest confidence of this in NM, TX, and southwest OK.
- Increased Evaporation of any rain that does fall is likely with higher temperatures ... further exacerbating surface reservoir water levels.



Southern Plains Drought Summary

- Drought conditions through October forecast to improve across all of NM, due mainly to August being the wettest month of the year. Drought improvement also forecast for far west TX.
- Drought forecast to persist across the remainder of TX. Drought forecast to persist and/or redevelop across OK.

**This information along with other drought
resources also available on the
Southern Plains drought.gov web portal
[http://www.drought.gov/drought/regional-
programs/southernplains/southern-plains-home](http://www.drought.gov/drought/regional-programs/southernplains/southern-plains-home)**



**Information provided by:
National Weather Service
Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX**



Phone: (817) 978-1100 x147
E-mail: sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov
Web: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov>

facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/US.NationalWeatherService.SRH.gov>

twitter

@NWS_Southern_US https://twitter.com/NWS_Southern_US